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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-08 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1434
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3690

SUBJECT: FLY FAMILY'S EMISSARY'S OPEN LETTER TO TUPAMAROS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2187

1. OPEN LETTER FROM KENNETH JOHNSON TO TUPAMAROS PUBLISHED IN SEPT 24 ISSUE OF WEEKLY PROPOSITOS, WHICH IS FARTHEST LEFT OVERT NEWSPAPER IN ARGENTINA. PROPOSITOS HAS NO MAILING RIGHTS AND CIRCULATION IS ESTIMATED AT 15,000 TO 20,000.

2. LETTER BEGINS STATING JOHNSON MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND LATER MENTIONS HIS TRIP SUBSIDIZED BY FLY FAMILY. HE ESTABLISHES HIS CREDENTIALS AS HARSH CRITIC OF USG LATIN AMERICAN POLICIES, NOTING HE HAS BEEN TWICE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA BY PANAMANIAN GOVT. HE DISCUSSES MITRIONE SLAYING AS FOLLOWS: QTE AS INDIVIDUAL WHO GENERALLY REJECTS USE OF VIOLENCE AND AS ONE OF MANY US CITIZENS WHO LAMENTED MITRIONE DEATH, I DEPLORE HAVING TO TELL MY COMPATRIOTS THAT IN SPANISH AMERICA THERE ARE MANY OCCASIONS WHEN POPULAR, PATRIOTIC GROUPS ARE OBLIGED TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE OWING TO POLICE TERROR AND PRESSURE UNQTE.

3. LETTER CONTINUES THAT WHILE JOHNSON GENERALLY AGAINST USAID ACTIVITIES, HE HAS FOUND THAT SOME USAID EMPLOYEES ARE NOT QTE PUPPETS OF CIA NOR LACKIES OF PENTAGON UNQTE, BUT HONEST MEN WHO FIGHT HUNGER AND SICKNESS ON CONTINENT, AND THAT DR. FLY IS ONE OF THESE.

4. JOHNSON STATES THAT UNTIL NOW US OFFICIALDOM HAS HAD NO

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KNOWLEDGE OF HIS MISSION, AND THAT USG HAS PRESSURED FLY FAMILY NOT TO SEND PERSONAL EMISSARY.

5. LETTER SAYS FLY FAMILY OF MODEST MEANS AND CANNOT OFFER RANSOM, BUT SINCE TUPAMAROS EVIDENTLY WILLING LIBERATE FLY IN EXCHANGE FOR WIDE DISSEMINATION OF MANIFESTO, JOHNSON PROMISES TO GIVE PUBLIC DISSEMINATION, OVER HIS SIGNATURE, TO ANY DOCUMENT MLN SENDS HIM, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE UNITED STATES, MENTIONING HIS UNIVERSITY, PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS. JOHNSON REASONS THAT MLN OBJECTIVES CAN BE REALIZED WITHOUT CONTINUED DETENTION OF FLY, WHOSE RELEASE WOULD BE QTE HUMANITARIAN ACT REFLECTING HONORABLE AND PRAISEWORTHY ATTITUDE UNQTE. LETTER CLOSES REQUESTING URGENT RESPONSE, AND IS DATED SEPTEMBER 20.
LODGE

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